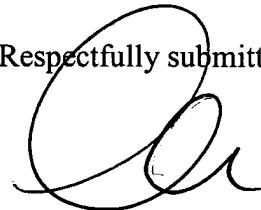


of U.S. Patent No. 6,314,558 issued on November 6, 2001, This application which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 6,186,677 issued on February 13, 2001, pending U.S. patent application No. 09/066,988 filed on April 23, 1998 which is based on U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/045,018 filed on April 28, 1997 and which is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,249 issued on November 16, 1999, pending U.S. Patent Application No. 08/916,125 filed on August 21, 1997, which is based on U.S. Provisional Patent Applications Nos. 60/024,624 and 60/036,250 filed on August 27, 1996 and January 24, 1997, respectively.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 617-248-4042.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne E. Saturnelli
Registration No. 41,290

Date: October 8, 2003

Patent Department
CHOATE, HALL & STEWART
Exchange Place
53 State Street
Boston, MA 02109-2804
Tel: (617) 248-5000
Fax: (617) 248-4000